

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Previously amended) A retroreflective article comprising:
2 a) a microporous substrate containing a plurality of pores which are less
3 than 0.5 μm in diameter; and
4 b) a layer of reflective material, selected from the group consisting of
5 metal coatings and dielectric coatings, wherein said layer of reflective material is
6 in direct contact with the surface of the substrate such that said layer at least
7 partially obscures a plurality of the pores of the substrate.
- 1 2. (Previously amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 1, additionally
2 comprising a protective coating material layer, overlying said layer of reflective
3 material.
- 1 3. (Original) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 2, wherein said protective
2 coating material is selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes,
3 polymethylmethacrylate and copolymers thereof, styrene-acrylonitriles,
4 polystyrene, polycarbonate, organosiloxanes, amorphous polyolefins, evaporative
5 dielectric coatings and other transparent materials.
- 1 4. (Previously amended) A retroreflective article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said
2 substrate contains a plurality of pores which have diameters which are less than
3 450 nm.
- 1 5. (Original) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said substrate
2 is comprised of a nanoporous polymeric film.
- 1 6. (Previously amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 4, wherein said
2 substrate is a fabric.
- 1 7. (Previously amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 5, wherein said
2 substrate is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene,
3 polytetrafluoroethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate,

4 polymethylmethacrylate and polyacetate.

1 8. (Previously amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said
2 reflective material layer is a metal coating.

1 9. (Previously amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 8, wherein said
2 reflective material is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, chromium,
3 nickel, silver and gold.

1 10. (Original) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 9, wherein said reflective
2 material is aluminum.

1 11. (Previously amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 10, wherein
2 said reflective material layer has a thickness of between about 0.001 to about
3 0.0001 inch.

1 12. (Original) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 1, wherein an optical
2 performance enhancing characteristic has been introduced into said article.

1 13. (Original) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 12, wherein said optical
2 performance enhancing characteristic is a repeating corner cube design.

1 14. (Previously amended) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 1, additionally
2 comprising an adhesive layer located on a surface of said substrate opposite to the
3 surface on which said reflective material layer is deposited.

1 15. (Original) A retroreflective article, as set forth in claim 1, affixed to a carrier
2 substrate member via said adhesive layer.

1 16. (Currently amended) A method for the production of a reflective article comprising
2 the steps of:

3 a) providing a substrate which contains pores which ~~has~~ have a diameter

4 of less than 0.5 microns; and

5 b) applying a layer of reflective material directly to the substrate in such
6 a way that said layer at least partially obscures a plurality of the pores of the
7 substrate, wherein said layer of reflective material is selected from a group
8 consisting of metal coatings and dielectric coatings.

1 17. (Previously amended) The method, as set forth in claim 16, further comprising the
2 step of applying a protective layer to said reflective article, overlying said layer of
3 reflective material.

1 18. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 17, wherein said protective coating
2 material is selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes,
3 polymethylmethacrylate and copolymers thereof, styrene-acrylonitriles,
4 polystyrene, polycarbonate, organosiloxanes, amorphous polyolefins, evaporative
5 dielectric coatings and other transparent materials.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The method, as set forth in claim 16, wherein said reflective
2 material is a metal coating.

1 20. (Previously amended) The method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein said metal
2 coating is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, chromium, nickel,
3 silver and gold.

1 21. (Previously amended) The method, as set forth in claim 20, wherein said metal
2 coating is aluminum and has a thickness of between 0.001 to about 0.0001 inch.

1 22. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 16, further comprising the step of
2 processing said article to introduce optical performance enhancing characteristics.

1 23. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 22, wherein said step of processing to
2 introduce optical performance enhancing characteristics comprises embossing said
3 article using calendar rolls or flat plates.

1 24. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 23, wherein said step of processing
2 includes heating said calendar rolls.

1 25. (Original) The method, as set forth in claim 23, wherein said step of processing
2 to introduce optical performance enhancing characteristics includes introducing
3 a repeating corner cube design into said reflective layer.